



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **CHILD PREDATOR ON THE RUN ARRESTED IN PUERTO RICO**

*Predator wanted by New Jersey State Police for raping a nine-year-old girl*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico— A 40-year-old U.S. citizen wanted by New Jersey police for raping a nine-year-old girl was arrested here Saturday by federal agents of the Puerto Rico fugitive task force (PRFTF).

Jose Gonzalez has been a fugitive on the run since Jan. 24 when a warrant for his arrest was issued.

Gonzalez attempted to evade arrest by running into the dense vegetation of Barrio Portillo in Adjuntas, PR. Agents located Gonzalez at a relative's home 12 miles from where he first eluded arrest.

Gonzalez was transported to an emergency clinic for the treatment of minor injuries.

"We will turn over every stone, and look in every corner if it means finding a child predator who thinks that justice can be evaded," said Felicia S. Skinner, Atlanta's deputy field office director for detention and removal headquartered in Puerto Rico. "ICE is committed to identifying and arresting predators who seek to hurt our most vulnerable."

The Puerto Rico fugitive task force (PRFTF) is a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) initiative lead by the U.S. Marshals. The task force is comprised of agents from the Puerto Rico Correction Administration, Puerto Rico Special Investigations Bureau, Puerto Rico State Marshals and ICE's Detention and Removal Operations.

ICE's National Fugitive Operation Program (NFOP) was established on Feb. 25, 2002, making the apprehension of absconders, or fugitives, a priority, within the Department of Homeland Security. The primary mission of NFOP is to identify, locate, apprehend, process, and remove fugitive aliens from the United States.

Gonzalez is currently in local custody awaiting extradition to New Jersey.

His arrest is part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including foreign nationals who've committed crimes against children, child sex tourists, human traffickers

and those who trade in child pornography. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,900 predators nationwide, including 369 in New Jersey and 6 in Puerto Rico.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

### **#ICE#**

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